

REMARKS

The following remarks and the above amendments are submitted to address all issues in this case, and to put this case in condition for allowance. Applicant amends the claims in this case solely to place the dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, and 13 in independent form. No new matter is added in these amendments. The above amendments are not limiting amendments, the restrictions of independent claims have simply been incorporated into claims previously dependent thereon. After the above amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, and 14 are independent.

Applicants have studied the Office Action Mailed February 27, 2003 and have the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner is thanked for his indication that claims 14-20 are allowable over the art of record and claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 13 would be allowable over the prior art of record if placed in independent form. Without admitting the Examiner is correct with regards to those claims rejected, applicant has placed prosecution claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, and 13 into independent form in the above amendment. Prosecution claims 3 and 9 depend on one of claims 2 or 8. It is therefore believed that all pending claims also allowable over the prior art of record.

Based on the above remarks, Applicant contends that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14-20 are allowable over the cited references and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection thereto and allow this case to pass to issue.

Conclusion


In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests entrance of the above amendment and allowance of all pending claims so that this case can pass on to issue.

As a final point, there is also included herewith the claim fee for four additional independent claims. It is believed no other fees are due in conjunction with this filing; however, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiencies necessary for entering this amendment, including any claims fees and/or extension fees to/from our Deposit Account No. 50-0975.

If, however, any questions remain, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call to the below-signed attorney at (314) 444-7783.

Respectfully submitted,
Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, L.C.

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Kirk A. Damman
Registration No. 42,461
Attorney for Applicant

Customer Number: 22822
Lewis, Rice and Fingersh, L.C.
500 N. Broadway, Suite 2000
St. Louis, MO 63102-2147
Tel: (314) 444-7600
Fax: (314) 444-7788